



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100

Sacramento, CA. 95814

October 13, 2005

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

File # 11-ORA-00 SOCTIP

Document # P53342

Susan Meyer
Army Corps of Engineers
CESPL-CO-R
915 Wilshire Blvd.
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, CA 90017

SUBJECT: Request for Concurrence on the Preliminary Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) for the South Orange County Infrastructure Improvement Project (SOCTIIP).

Dear Ms. Meyer:

Over the past five years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has, as part of the collaborative process under the National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Act Section 404 Memorandum of Understanding (NEPA/404 MOU), coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, Caltrans, Transportation Corridor Agencies, the Marine Corps, and Camp Pendleton. Based on project analysis and past coordination efforts, the FHWA is formally requesting a preliminary LEDPA determination for the SOCTIIP project. FHWA believes that the A7C-FEC-M Initial (see enclosed map) is the LEDPA. We also enclosed the letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service dated September 30, 2005 regarding their preliminary conclusions on the endangered species for the project to help in this decision process. We would appreciate receipt of your concurrence on the preliminary LEDPA determination on or before 45 days, as stated in the NEPA/404 MOU.

Please contact Larry Vinzant, Senior Environmental Specialist (916) 498-5040, or Macie Cleary-Milan at (949) 754-3483 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lisa Cathcart-Randall

For
Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator

Enclosures

cc: (hard copy w/ enclosures)

Steven John, US EPA

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Southern California Field Office

600 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1460

Los Angeles, CA 90017

Macie Cleary-Milan, TCA

PO Box 53770

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Sylvia Vega, Caltrans D-12

cc: (email w/ enclosures)

Jay Norvell, Caltrans

Sylvia Vega, Caltrans

Susanne Glasgow, Caltrans

Mary Gray, FHWA

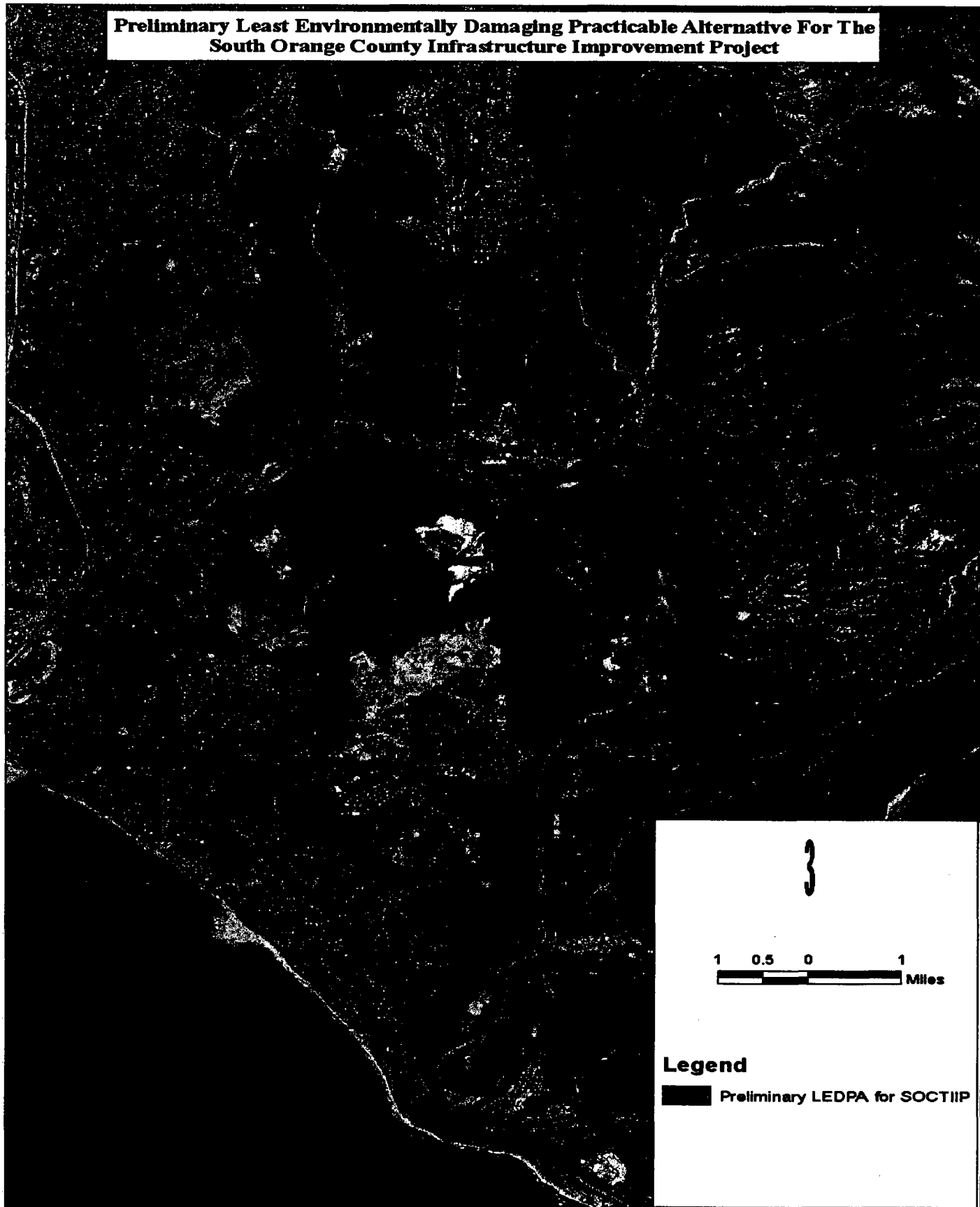
Tay Dam, FHWA

Lisa Cathcart-Randall, FHWA

Larry Vinzant, FHWA

LCathcart-Randall/lmg

**Preliminary Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative For The
South Orange County Infrastructure Improvement Project**



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Legend

 Preliminary LEDPA for SOCTIIP